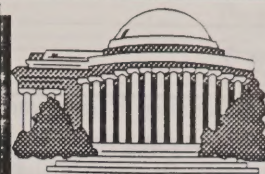




The Capitol Hill Monitor



Volume 2 Issue 4

May 1996

COMING ACROSS THE BAY?

by Bill Zittle

Let me take you and your scanner from the Chesapeake Bay to the Atlantic Ocean via Route 50. Perhaps you're planning to join us for the Maryland State Firemen's Association Convention during June 16-19? In any case, our journey starts at the Bay Bridge which uses 453.575. From here I'll list the frequencies by county. Arriving on the Eastern Shore the first county we encounter is Queen Anne's, known as the factory outlet and shopping mecca in the "land of pleasant living."

Queen Anne's County

39.500 Sheriff
39.800 MSP Centreville (Bk S)
46.080 Fire CH2 (fireground)
46.140 Fire CH1 (primary)
47.140 State Highways CH4 (Dist 2)
463.000 EMS; Med 1 (468.0 mobiles)
463.125 EMS; Med 6
(468.125 mobiles)

As we whiz (or crawl) by the Route 50 and MD-404 intersection we enter Talbot County, the land of tidewater... blending the best of a colonial past with a uniquely scenic present.

Talbot County

33.640 Fire CH2 (medical)
33.660 Fire CH4 (rarely used)
33.680 Fire CH3 (fireground)
33.900 Fire CH1 (primary)
39.480 Sheriff
39.960 MSP Easton (Bk I)
47.140 State Highways CH4 (Dist 2)
154.950 Easton Police
463.000 EMS; Med 1 (468.0 mobiles)

The bridge over the scenic Choptank River draws us into Cambridge, the county seat for Dorchester County, the

heart of the Eastern Shore and winter home of the Canada Goose.

Dorchester County

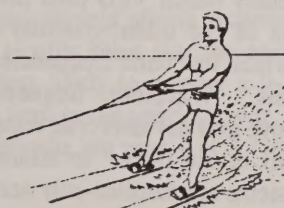
39.9600 MSP Easton (Bk I)
46.0600 Fire CH1 (simulcasts trunked)
47.4000 State Highways CH3 (Dist 1)
453.3000 Cambridge Police (primary)
460.2250 Cambridge Police
463.1000 EMS; Med 5 (468.1 mobiles)
855.9875 Trunked
856.2625 Trunked
857.2625 Trunked
858.2625 Trunked
859.2625 Trunked

A few miles down the road the Nanticoke River borders Wicomico County, the shore's regional center for transportation, education and travel. Hebron, the place I call home, is about 13 miles away.

Wicomico County

33.480 Fire CH3 (fire police)
33.800 Fire CH2 (fireground)
33.980 Fire CH1 (primary)
39.240 MSP Salisbury MSP-5 (alternate)
39.780 MSP Salisbury (Bk E)
47.400 State Highways CH3 (Dist 1)
154.385 Fire (simulcasts 33.98)
155.895 Salisbury Fire
453.750 Sheriff (primary)
460.075 Salisbury Police (secondary)
460.375 Salisbury Police (primary)
460.5625 Sheriff (alternate)
463.025 EMS; Med 2 (468.025 mobiles)

Moving right along and over the Pocomoke River we enter Worcester County, where all trails lead to Atlantic Ocean beaches.



Worcester County

39.180 Sheriff
39.600 MSP Berlin (Bk V)
46.380 Fire CH1 (primary)
46.440 Fire CH2 (fireground)
47.400 State Highways CH3 (Dist 1)
463.075 EMS; Med 4

In a few minutes we cross over the Assawoman Bay and the Isle of Wight Bay and arrive on the off-shore bar known as Ocean City. City agencies use a nine-channel trunked system. Most radios have access to a tenth frequency, 866.0125, which is the national 800 MHz mutual aid calling channel. This frequency is used for tactical communications in both repeater and talkaround modes.

Ocean City

853.9625 Trunked 855.2375 Trunked
856.7375 Trunked 857.7375 Trunked
858.7375 Trunked 859.7375 Trunked
859.9875 Trunked 860.7375 Trunked
860.9875 Trunked
866.0125 Conventional

While in Ocean City check the city's former VHF and UHF channels for activity. Last year several channels simulcast the trunked system or were used for administrative chit-chat. Another strong frequency in Wicomico and Worcester counties is 155.22, the EMS dispatch channel for Accomack, Virginia.

Old Ocean City Radio Systems

46.320 Fire (EMS)
46.360 Fire Main (simulcasts trunked)
154.025 Sanitation
154.040 Beach Patrol CH4
155.220 Beach Patrol CH2
155.370 Beach Patrol CH1
158.895 Recreation
452.650 Transportation
460.150 Police CH1
460.325 Police CH2
460.425 Police CH3

Here are a few frequencies you may wish to monitor anywhere on the shore. All counties, towns and most of the cities on the Eastern Shore still have capability of operating on 39.1, which is used as both a primary and secondary channel depending upon the jurisdiction. All of these police agencies use the 1969 APCO 10 code. Listen for MSP aircraft Trooper 4 from Salisbury and Trooper 6 from Centreville on 44.74 and 47.66.

General Eastern Shore Frequencies

37.080 DNR
 37.360 DNR
 39.100 MSP Statewide
 39.220 DNR Marine Police
 44.740 MSP Helos (primary)
 47.320 StateHighwayAdmin
 Statewide (CH1)
 47.660 MSP Helos (hospital patch)
 151.325 DNR Eastern Region
 Parks CH2
 151.460 DNR Eastern Region
 Forests CH1
 156.450 Marine CH09 (hailing)
 156.800 Marine CH16 (distress)
 157.150 Marine CH23
 (USCG Activity Balt/OC)
 159.450 DNR Statewide
 Forests & Parks CH3
 462.975 EMS; Call 2
 (areawide; mobiles 467.975)

Note: DNR is (Maryland) Department of Natural Resources

While on the Eastern Shore you might want to try scanning in one of quaint towns, some of which are historic. For information about these towns or about the area in general please feel free to contact me, Bill Zittle, at PO Box 44, Hebron, MD 21830 or call 410-860-2299.



EASTERN SHORE CROSS-BAND REPEATERS

by Alan Henney

Several years ago the Saint Michaels police received FCC permission to move a vehicular cross-band repeater from a patrol car to the police station. The system, still in operation, allows MSP to dispatch the Saint Michaels police on 39.1. The cross-band repeater in the city's police station then retransmits 39.1 onto the city's 155.49 channel (and vice versa). In addition, officers can chat amongst themselves by using 155.49 as a "talkaround" channel.

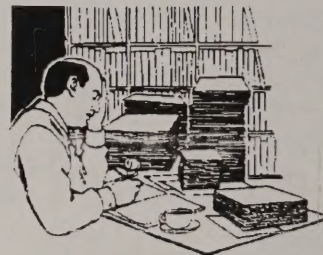
Inspired by this concept, several volunteer fire departments have erected similar systems employing more sophisticated equipment. Here are nine systems we have verified. You can probably expect to hear more as you head to the shore this summer.

Repeater	Licensee	Freqs rpt'd
154.385	Salisbury FD	33.98
154.400	Blades VFD	33.7, 33.72, 33.78, 33.86, 33.92, 33.96, 33.98
155.490	St Michaels PD/MSP	39.1
453.300	Rehoboth Beach VFD	33.78
453.650	Lewes VFD	33.96
460.600	Bethany Beach VFD	33.56, 33.92, 33.96, 46.36
460.600	Talleyville VFD	33.78
460.625	Aetna VFD (Newark)	33.78
460.625	Carlisle VFD (Milford)	33.78

The Bethany Beach VFD (and probably some of the other systems) can choose which low band frequencies to retransmit. Therefore, frequencies listed above may not always be retransmitted all of the time. In addition, some systems are monitor-only and do

not permit "talk-back" on selected frequencies. Many of the systems employ several CTCSS/DCS tones -- not all of which are cross-link to other bands.

The 154.4 repeater is licensed to the Blades VFD, though other departments may use it. As the list of cross-band repeater systems continues to grow, it becomes increasing more difficult to determine who is actually using a frequency or merely being repeated over it. As you monitor, try to determine if you hear multiple repeaters "drop" when the the user stops transmitting. And don't forget to drop us a note if you discover anything new.



NEWSSCAN

by Brent Baker

FREEMEN GET FREE RADIOS. Several weeks after the FBI surrounded the Freeman farm in Jordan, Mont., reported the April 28 Austin American-Statesman, the FBI has given the group new portable Motorola radios to provide the Freeman with a hot line to the authorities. In addition, the radios are being used for internal communications. These radios encrypt conversations to prevent reporters and others with scanners from listening. Presumably, new telecommunications towers the FBI installed on a hilltop help unscramble intercepted radio conversations.

SECRET SERVICE CHARGED WITH NEGLECTING D.C. The D.C. police union is threatening to sue the Secret Service over an order for officers in the uniformed division not to enforce certain D.C. laws. The controversy started when Deputy Chief Steve Johnson of the Secret

Service told officers during roll call that they were to focus on their duties of protecting the White House, embassies and other foreign missions and give a back seat to D.C. laws. The Secret Service, reported the April 30 Washington Times, countered that its management is simply trying to keep a tight rein on officers by making sure they're giving their federal duties top priority.

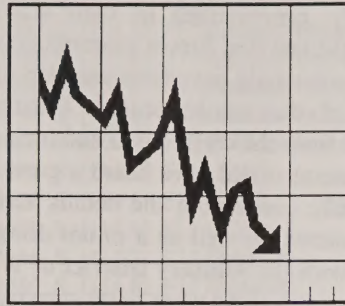
A lawyer for the Fraternal Order of Police said the Secret Service officers are sworn, under authorization from Congress, to enforce federal and D.C. laws. He emphasized the importance of the Secret Service officers enforcing even the most minor laws. Often a person pulled over for a routine violation is wanted for something more serious, he said.

MORE CUTBACKS FOR DC FIRE? D.C. Mayor Marion Barry's plan to permanently close three fire engine companies and one rescue squad as part of a major reorganization is under attack by the firefighters' union and civic activists, who say it is intended to save money, not lives. Fire Chief Otis J. Latin Sr. said the plan began a year ago with a computer analysis that divided the city and its structures into 548 "fire response zones," each coded as low, medium or high hazard for fire potential. Latin said the results guided proposed placement of equipment and firefighters.

Articles in the April 18 and 25 Washington Post reported that the plan would save \$3.6 million a year in overtime costs and would improve coverage in under-served areas of the city, but that response time for fire and emergency rescue services would increase in some areas.

The District now has 32 engine companies, 16 truck companies, three rescue squads, 11 medics and 17 ambulances. If approved by the D.C. Council, the plan would eliminate engine companies in the stations at 2225 M St. NW [Engine 1], 1101 Half St. SW [Engine 7] and 1617 U St. NW [Engine 9]. The rescue squad at 5101 Georgia Ave. NW [Rescue Squad 2] also would be closed. The plan also calls for

moving the ladder truck at 2425 Irving St. SE [Truck 16] to the station at 3203 Martin Luther King Ave. SE. Two rescue squads would be relocated: one in Northwest, from 500 F St. [Rescue Squad 1] to 2531 Sherman Ave., and another in Southeast, from 2101 14th St. [Rescue Squad 3] to 1520 C St.



The president of Local 36 of the International Association of Fire Fighters said that, in 1991, the District's fire department operated with 304 firefighters on duty per shift, and responded to 79,000 calls with a budget of \$103 million. In 1995, the budget fell to \$73 million, and calls increased to 144,000 for only 228 firefighters on duty per shift. Latin said he hoped the number of calls for emergency medical services -- 140,000 last year -- would be reduced through educational campaigns discouraging low-priority calls for the rescue squad. Officials said the highest concentration of unnecessary medical calls is in the Adams-Morgan area.

VOLUNTEER RESPONSE RATES WORSEN IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY. Prince William County residents reporting a fire or medical emergency in 1995 faced a 1-in-8 chance that the nearest fire station would not respond when volunteers were on duty, and the problem was far worse at some hours of the day, according to records analyzed by April 17 Washington Post.

Despite officials' efforts to correct the problem, records show that the nearest station was less likely to answer a 9-1-1 call in 1995 than in the previous year. In 13 percent of calls last year -- or 2,730 of the

20,960 times they were dispatched -- volunteers from the nearest station were unable to respond, up from 10 percent in 1994. More than 90 percent of those incidents involved medical emergencies.

Between 6 and 7 a.m., when many of the overnight volunteers were heading to their day jobs, the failure rate was much higher: The nearest station did not respond to half the calls for basic medical care. That's an increase from 1994, when statistics showed that volunteers failed to get units out of the station 39 percent of the time during that morning hour.

The county saves about \$7 million a year by operating a hybrid system in which 167 paid career firefighters staff its 17 fire stations during daytime hours on weekdays and about 1,000 volunteers take over from early evening until the morning rush hour and on weekends. The county's 12 volunteer fire companies operate independently of the county and decide their own staffing levels.

Since 1994, when a consultant's report criticized the fire and rescue system, the county has hired a new chief and taken other steps to improve service and morale damaged by turf battles between paid and volunteer workers. Officials say the increased funding from supervisors, as well as a new system of monitoring volunteer staffing, will noticeably improve emergency service.

GOOD PRESS FOR TWO CHM MEMBERS. "In the dead of a Sunday night, a light-blue Crown Victoria idles in a parking lot off New York Avenue NE," starts the lead of an essay in the May 5 Washington Post Magazine. "Bob Pugh and Tom Yeatman relax in the front seat, listening to the staccato jabbering of three police scanners."

"Units be advised," says a female voice, 'all I have is, two gunmen are running down Calvert Street.' Immediately, a male voice erupts from another scanner: 'I do have a confirmed shooting at 2400 block of 18th

Street, copy.' The Crown Vic's headlights flash on as the car jumps forward. Pugh, at the wheel, turns left and accelerates along a service road beside New York Avenue. Yeatman opens a map book."

"If they get lucky tonight," wrote Post reporter Kevin McManus, "they'll find something worth photographing -- a crime scene, a car wreck, a fire. If they get very lucky, they may sell a picture or video clip to a newspaper or TV station." The 1300-word essay is a must-read for scanner enthusiasts and fire buffs.



FEDERAL NOTES

by Willard Hardman
e-mail hardman1@ix.netcom.com

The **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**, our good friends from April the 15th and May 5th (Tax Independence Day) seem to be rather active of late. The District units can be heard primarily on 166.00 [131.8], both repeater and simplex, conducting stake-outs and surveillance of various malefactors and tax scofflaws around the District of Columbia.

Richmond based units operating in the Northern Virginia area can be heard doing similar type operations in the Northern Virginia area. However, they seem to prefer the UHF system and are usually heard on channel 9, 418.175 [123.0], although they occasionally move to channel 2, 418.225 [123.0].

The **Personal Security Activity** has been heard using 409.075 [CSQ], both simplex and repeater for unit to unit coordination of movements of the Secretary of Defense.

This is in addition to their use of the trunked system, usually encrypted, and SECURENET mobile telephones. 409.075 was their primary operating frequency prior to the trunked system being installed. They have not been monitored using any of the other older frequencies.

Those who had the **Department of Commerce** security/escort frequency, 414.625 [156.7], programmed in their scanners when the late Ron Brown's aircraft crashed in Bosnia would have been one step up on much of what was happening. During the period from the crash, up to and including the funeral would have heard a great deal of traffic concerning the details and arrangements, as well as a minor disagreement with the **Military District of Washington** concerning when buses carrying department employees would be allowed onto Arlington National Cemetery. Those who had the MDW's ceremonies and special events net, 143.175 [136.5] would have heard the other side of the story.

The **DC Army National Guard** has been providing support to the Metro Police for several years. The support includes transportation, lighting, and the use of advanced avionics and observation equipment in their helicopters based at Davison Army Airfield. Thanks to some astute monitoring by Steve Rigby and others, the ground units, and occasionally the helicopters, have been monitored employing a highly unusual (but then this is the District of Columbia) frequency pair - 161.00 output with 158.00 as the input. The "COC" base is located at the National Guard Armory in Anacostia. Units are most active starting around 5:30 in the evening as they coordinate where to meet MPD units.

The beleaguered **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)**, unless you are a civilian or newsperson and then BATF) seem to be having some minor radio difficulties. For reasons unknown, they have been operating of late without benefit of CTCSS on 165.2875 (primary) both repeater and simplex and the unit to unit frequency 165.9125. They also have been using an unusual manner of identifying the channel they are on. The base will identify as "Falls Church One" or "Falls Church

Three" meaning channel one or three respectively. For whatever reason, most traffic seems to take place on simplex. Additionally, ATF has not been heard using their encryption equipment lately.

The **US Marshal's Service** seems to have completed its transition to a modified numbering system for its units. Although this information has not been fully confirmed, it would appear that each US District Court has been assigned a two digit identifier. (The USMS is organized on the geographic areas covered by the district court they serve). Units identify with a four digit number (exceptions noted below), the first two digits being the district and the last two the individual unit. For example, the deputy marshals assigned to the DC District Court identify as 1602, 1629, etc. (The base is 1600). The first two digits, 16, are the district and the last two the unit. The District Court for Southern Maryland uses 37 and the District Court for Northern Virginia is 83. The bases all identify with the digits "00". Most of the radio activity takes place on 163.200

Now for the exceptions - of course there are exceptions - selected operations in the DC area use only three digits because of their unique status at either the headquarters or DC Superior Court. 100s are headquarters units (and are rarely heard). 400s (on 162.7125 [136.5] are protective services units. DC Superior Court units - essentially the DC Sheriff - use 700s, usually on 162.7875. (NB. Recently a substantial increase in the volume of encrypted traffic has been noted). Alexandria still continues to identify as "Alexandria" rather regularly. The USMS "substation" recently opened in Greenbelt identifies as "Greenbelt".

If any one has additional information or comments or thoughts, please let Alan or me know.

For some interesting chit-chat on occasion, program 123.4 into your scanner. It is regularly used by federal government aircrew as a "chit chat" channel. For example, the other day two pilots from either USMS or INS were commiserating over the heavy workload and having to haul prisoners.

US POSTAL INSPECTORS

Because of the recent nationwide arrests for child pornography by US Postal Inspectors, we thought you might like to see their frequency configuration. Baltimore division uses a similar configuration, as does Richmond. However, Richmond uses a CTCSS to of 110.9. Channels are usually referred to by their color designation. The base identifies as "Washington".

Postal Inspectors

Washington Division

414.7500 R [82.5] 1: Red Net
 414.7500 S [82.5] 2:
 415.0500 R [82.5] 3: Blue Net
 415.0500 S [82.5] 4: Gray Net
 415.4750 R [82.5] 5: Green Net
 415.4750 S [82.5] 6:
 415.0500 R [82.5] Hogback Mtn Rptr 1
 414.7500 R [82.5] Hogback Mtn Rptr 2
 415.4750 R [82.5] Hogback Mtn Rptr 3
 407.7250 I [82.5] Input to 415.05
 407.7750 I [82.5] Input to 414.75
 411.6500 I [82.5] Input to 415.475



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Prince William County was created in 1730 and was named in honor of the second son of King George II. It has a rapidly growing population of over 215,000 plus the populations of the independent cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. Its 355 square miles are oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. Generally, governmental districts are referred to as east and west. Originally an agricultural county, primarily tobacco plantations, it is rapidly becoming a part of the Washington area megapolis. This growth, primarily suburban in nature, is giving the county severe growing pains. The county is somewhat schizophrenic. The growth areas around Woodbridge and Manassas are primarily suburban in nature and part of occupied northern Virginia, along with Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria. The balance of

the county remains rural with horse and truck farms. This type of transition presents substantial problems for county agencies because the demands of the population in each area are quite different.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

154.3700 S [114.8] F1 Fireground-West
 154.3250 S [114.8] F2 Dispatch
 154.4450 S [114.8] F3 Firegnd-East
 154.2800 S [None] F4 FMARS2
 154.2650 S [127.3] F5 FMARS3
 154.4000 S [114.8] F6 Manassas Fireground
 154.2500 S [114.8] F7 Manassas Dispatch
 154.9800 S [114.8] F8 Manassas Park Disp
 155.1150 S [114.8] F9 Manassas Park FG
 155.2050 S [114.8] F10 EMS Mutual Aid
 155.2800 S [114.8] F11 HEAR
 155.3400 S [114.8] F12 HEAR
 155.4000 S [114.8] F13 HEAR
 154.3250 S [114.8] F14 Dispatch
 154.3250 S [114.8] F15 Dispatch
 162.5500 S [None] F16 NOAA Weather
 154.1450 S [] Fire Admin & Training
 154.2950 S [None] FMARS1
 458.7500 E [146.2] Vehicular Extenders

As noted in the earlier article on Prince William County in the "Newscan" section of the newsletter, Prince William County has a mixed professional and volunteer fire and rescue service.

453.4750 R [114.8] F1: Admin & Animal Control
 453.3750 R [114.8] F2: East Div (Pri)
 453.1500 R [114.8] F3: West Div (Pri)
 453.7000 R [114.8] F4: East Div (Alt)
 453.4750 S [114.8] F5: Car to Car
 453.3750 S [114.8] F6: East Div (Tac)
 453.1500 S [114.8] F7: West Div (Tac)
 453.7000 S [114.8] F8: Special Ops
 453.2000 R [162.2] F9: Manassas PD
 453.7750 R [114.8] F10: Manassas Park PD
 453.5500 R [100.0] F11: P-MARS
 453.7000 R [192.8] F12: Special Ops West
 453.1500 R [192.8] F13: Special Ops East
 453.2000 S [162.2] F14: Manassas PD
 453.7750 S [114.8] F15: Manassas Park PD
 453.4750 R [114.8] F16: Admin
 458.5750 S [] Low Power Tactical
 39.5400 S [114.8] SIRS Patch

The PW PD was established in July 1970. Prior to that time, police services were provided by the sheriff's department. There are about 300 sworn officers plus support staff in 3 divisions and 18 bureaus. Within the **Operations Division** are the eastern and western patrol divi-

sions, the crime prevention bureau, special operations bureau and the crossing guard bureau. The animal control bureau is an independent bureau, as are internal affairs and public information bureaus. For patrol operations, the county is divided into two districts: eastern and western. The dividing line roughly follows state routes 646 and 642, with the districts actually located to the southeast and northwest of the dividing line. Town police for Haymarket, Occoquan, Dumfries, and Quantico operate on the county frequencies with unit identifications in the 700s.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

39.6800 S [114.8] F1: Dispatch
 39.5400 S [114.8] F2: SIRS
 39.5000 S [] F3: Car-to-Car
 155.9400 S [d466] ADC Internal Ops & SD Court Operations
 154.6500 E [None] Extenders to 39.68
 155.7750 E [] Extenders to 39.5

PRINCE WILLIAM-MANASSAS REGIONAL ADULT DETENTION CENTER

39.5000 S [] External Ops
 39.5400 S [] SIRS
 155.9400 S [d466] Internal Ops
 155.7750 E [] Extenders

The ADC is essentially the "city-county jail". It was established to combine the county jail, the Manassas and Manassas Park city jails, resulting in the regional ADC.

PUBLIC WORKS

45.1200 S [None] Operations
 154.1150 E [] Extenders

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

45.3200 S [None] Operations
 461.7625 E [] Scty Extenders
 464.8250 S [151.4] See Below
 466.1000 S [151.4] See Below

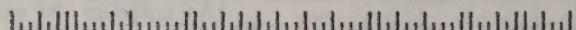
Prince William Public Schools consists of over 60 schools, plus support facilities. 464.825 and 466.10 are used at each individual school for internal operations such as the control of students when loading buses. Each middle and high school habitually operates on one or the other of these frequencies. Elementary schools are

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not radio equipped. All central administration operations including bus dispatch, bus and school maintenance, etc., are conducted on 45.32.

COUNTY UTILITIES

153.7250 S [114.8] Water & Sewer Ops

Additionally, the county utilities operates SCADA telemetry on 453.2375, 453.2625, 453.3125, 453.6125, 453.6375, and 453.6625.

Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for both style and content. When submitting material please make certain we have your phone number should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a SASE.

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Ken Fowler, Virginia (703-385-2165)

Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:

We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the Capitol Hill Monitor!

